



Great Plains Collaborative

Through a \$2.5 million grant award from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, Lutheran Services in America (LSA) established the Great Plains Senior Services Collaborative with the goal of expanding community-based services and supports for vulnerable seniors living in rural communities. LSA leads the Collaborative in partnership with its member organizations in Minnesota and North Dakota. The Collaborative is an active learning community with a common mission: to improve the health and quality of life of low-income and vulnerable seniors in rural areas, share learnings for faster adoption, and partner effectively with health systems and other payers to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of these critical services. The three-year grant was completed in December 2018 and the Collaborative successfully improved the health and quality of life of 1,550 vulnerable seniors in over 70 communities throughout rural Minnesota and North Dakota. A second three-year grant of \$3.4 million was recently awarded to scale successful programs under the first grant and expand services to Montana.

Connect-Home

Connect-Home is an evidence-based transitional care process that empowers patients and their caregivers to manage patients' serious illness at home, improve function, and prevent avoidable re-hospitalizations. In partnership with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, LSA is piloting the implementation of this post-acute care team-based transition model. The model, created by UNC and initially tested by Lutheran Services Carolinas, is being further tested by organizations in Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey and North Carolina with the goal of making it more broadly available across the Lutheran Services in America network. The model is designed to prepare seniors in rehabilitation to safely return home and remain there without complications with the support of their caregivers. As health systems search for better strategies to reduce unnecessary re-hospitalizations, we believe Connect-Home is an excellent program that prepares post-acute older adults to transition home. This partnership is being supported by The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.

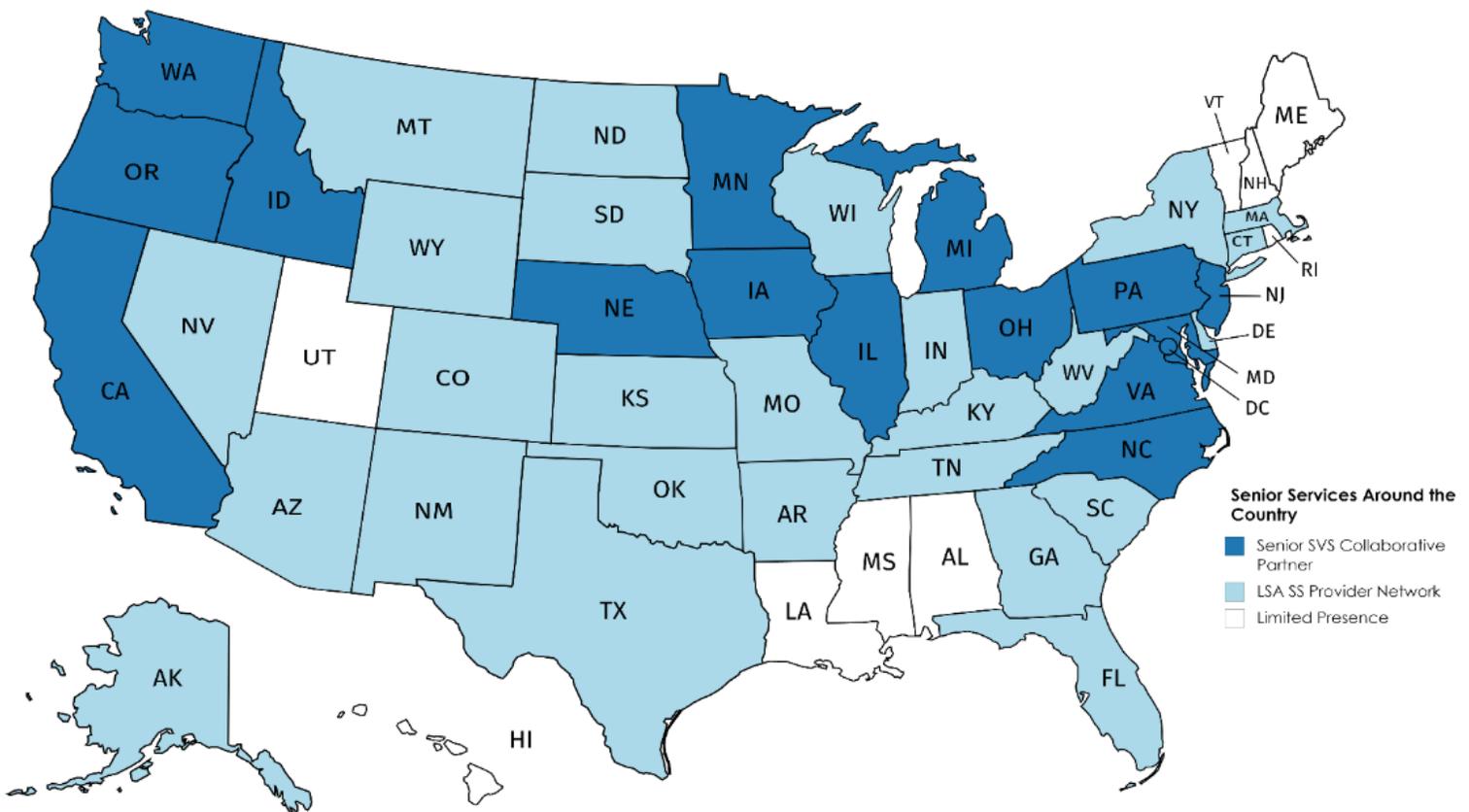
LSA SeniorConnect

One of Lutheran Services in America's top priorities is helping low-income and vulnerable seniors stay healthy and remain independent in their homes and communities. About 96% of Medicare dollars are spent on patients with one or more chronic conditions and seniors with unmanaged chronic conditions can quickly shift from being stable and independent to frail and hospitalized. To address these challenges, LSA developed LSA SeniorConnect with its member organizations. LSA SeniorConnect is an innovative service coordination program that connects rising risk, Medicare Advantage seniors to resources in their communities. It enables seniors to manage their chronic conditions by addressing the social determinants of health - those non-medical factors (transportation, food, housing, social isolation, etc.) that negatively impact health and jeopardize independence. LSA SeniorConnect engages seniors in their aging process, integrates community resources, and activates them in chronic disease self-management. It addresses the outcome and cost management needs of potential payers and provides a scalable and adaptable program aligning with healthcare transformation.

The Catalyst

The Catalyst is an electronic news service provided free of charge to Lutheran Services in America Network members serving older adults. Its purpose is to provide current health care and senior services news to Lutheran organizations. The focus is on the finance and policy angles of population health, social/human services, caregiving, health care transformation, health disparities, and the social determinants of health. The Catalyst is disseminated twice a month as relevant reports, educational opportunities, policy updates, research studies, federal announcements, and other resources become available.

The Lutheran Services in America Network has an extensive footprint in caring for older adults, with 200 member organizations serving over 1400 communities across 46 states.



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SENIOR SERVICES PROGRAMS